

**Greatest Of All Times**

**108**

**G  
O  
A  
T**

**Globally selected  
PERSONALITIES**

**Politics are too  
serious a matter to  
be left to the  
politicians.**



**General Charles DeGaulle**

 **Wonderful Quote**



**22 Nov 1890 <::><::><::> 9 Nov 1970**

Compiled by:  
**Prof Dr S Ramalingam**  
**ISBN:978-81-982668-5-9**

**Na Subbureddiar 100 Educational Trust**

[An ISO 9001 - 2015 Certified]

**AD-13,5th Street, Anna Nagar West, Chennai - 600 040**

**[www.nasubbureddiar100.in](http://www.nasubbureddiar100.in)**

22 Nov 1890



9 Nov 1970

# Charles de Gaulle

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_de\\_Gaulle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_de_Gaulle)

*Charles de Gaulle*



Wartime portrait, 1942

## President of France

### In office

8 January 1959 – 28 April 1969

**Prime Minister**

- [Michel Debré](#)
- [Georges Pompidou](#)
- [Maurice Couve de Murville](#)

**Preceded by** [René Coty](#)

**Succeeded by** [Georges Pompidou](#)

## [Prime Minister of France](#)

### **In office**

1 June 1958 – 8 January 1959

**President** [René Coty](#)

**Preceded by** [Pierre Pflimlin](#)

**Succeeded by** [Michel Debré](#)

## **Chairman of the [Provisional Government of the French Republic](#)**

### **In office**

3 June 1944 – 26 January 1946

**Preceded by**

- [Philippe Pétain](#)  
(Chief of the French State)
- [Pierre Laval](#)  
(Chief of the Government)

**Succeeded by** [Félix Gouin](#)

## **Chairman of the [French](#) National Committee<sup>[a]</sup>**

### **In office**

18 June 1940 – 3 June 1944

**Preceded by** Position established<sup>[b]</sup>

**Succeeded by** Position abolished<sup>[c]</sup>

## [Minister of Defence](#)

### **In office**

1 June 1958 – 8 January 1959

**Prime Minister** Himself

**Preceded by** [Pierre de Chevigné](#)

**Succeeded by** [Pierre Guillaumat](#)

## [Minister of Algerian Affairs](#)

### **In office**

12 June 1958 – 8 January 1959

**Prime Minister** Himself

**Preceded by** André Mutter

**Succeeded by** [Louis Joxe](#)

## **Personal details**

**Born** Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle

22 November 1890  
[Lille, France](#)

**Died** 9 November 1970 (aged 79)  
[Colombey-les-Deux-Églises](#), France

**Resting place** Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, France

**Political party** [Union of Democrats for the Republic](#) (1967–1969)

<b>Other political affiliations</b>	<a href="#">Union for the New Republic</a> (1958–1967)
<b>Spouse</b>	<a href="#">Yvonne Vendroux</a> (m. 1921)
<b>Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Philippe</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Élisabeth</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Anne</a></li> </ul>
<b><a href="#">Alma mater</a></b>	<a href="#">École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr</a>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Military service</b>	
<b>Allegiance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">French Third Republic</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Free France</a></li> </ul>
<b>Branch/service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">French Army</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">French Armed Forces</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Free French Forces</a></li> </ul>
<b>Years of service</b>	1912–1944
<b>Rank</b>	<a href="#">Brigade general</a>
<b>Unit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infantry</li> <li>• Armoured cavalry</li> </ul>
<b>Commands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">19e bataillon de chasseurs à pied</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">507e régiment de chars de combat</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">4e Division cuirassée</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Free France</a></li> </ul>
<b>Battles/wars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">World War I</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Dinant</a> (WIA)</li> <li>• <a href="#">First Battle of Champagne</a> (WIA)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Verdun</a> (POW)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Polish–Soviet War</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">World War II</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of France</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Montcornet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Abbeville</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Battle of Dakar</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Liberation of Paris</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle** (22 November 1890 – 9 November 1970) was a French military officer and statesman who [led](#) the [Free French Forces](#) against [Nazi Germany](#) in [World War II](#) and chaired the [Provisional Government of the French Republic](#) from 1944 to 1946 to restore democracy in France. In 1958, amid the [Algerian War](#), he came out of retirement when appointed [Prime Minister](#) by President [René Coty](#). He rewrote the [Constitution of France](#) and founded the [Fifth Republic](#) after approval by [referendum](#). He was elected [President of France](#) later that year, a position he [held](#) until his resignation in 1969.

Born in [Lille](#), he was a decorated officer of the [First World War](#), wounded several times and taken prisoner by the Germans. During the [interwar period](#), he advocated mobile armoured divisions. During the German invasion of May 1940, he led an armoured division that counterattacked the invaders; he was then appointed Undersecretary for War. Refusing to accept his government's [armistice with Germany](#), De Gaulle fled to England and exhorted the French to continue the fight in his [Appeal of 18 June](#). He led the Free French Forces and later headed the [French National Liberation Committee](#) and emerged as the undisputed leader of [Free France](#). He became head of the [Provisional Government of the French Republic](#) in June 1944, the interim government of France following [its liberation](#). As early as 1944, De Gaulle introduced a [dirigiste](#) economic policy, which included substantial state-directed control over a capitalist economy, which was followed by 30 years of unprecedented growth, known as the [Trente Glorieuses](#). He resigned in 1946, but continued to be politically active as founder of the [Rally of the French People](#). He retired in the early 1950s and wrote his *War Memoirs*, which quickly became a staple of modern French literature.

When the [Algerian War](#) threatened to bring the unstable [Fourth Republic](#) to collapse, the [National Assembly](#) brought him back to power during the [May 1958 crisis](#). He founded the Fifth Republic with a strong presidency; he was [elected](#) with 78% of the vote to continue in that role. He managed to keep France together while taking steps to end the war, much to the anger of the [Pieds-Noirs](#) (ethnic Europeans born in Algeria) and the armed forces. He granted independence to Algeria and acted progressively towards other French colonies. In the context of the [Cold War](#), De Gaulle initiated his "politics of grandeur", asserting that France as a major power should not rely on other countries, such as the United States, for its national security and prosperity. To this

end, he pursued a policy of "national independence" which led him to withdraw from [NATO's](#) integrated military command and to launch an independent [nuclear strike force](#) that made France the world's [fourth nuclear power](#). He restored cordial [Franco-German relations](#) with [Konrad Adenauer](#) to create a European counterweight between the Anglo-American and Soviet spheres of influence through the signing of the [Élysée Treaty](#) on 22 January 1963.

De Gaulle opposed any development of a [supranational Europe](#), favouring Europe as a continent of [sovereign nations](#). De Gaulle openly criticised the [US intervention in Vietnam](#) and the "[exorbitant privilege](#)" of the US dollar. In his later years, his support for the slogan "[Vive le Québec libre](#)" and his two vetoes of Britain's entry into the [European Economic Community](#) generated considerable controversy in both North America and Europe. Although reelected to the presidency in [1965](#), he faced widespread protests by students and workers in [May 68](#) but had the Army's support and won [a snap election](#) with an increased majority in the National Assembly. De Gaulle resigned in 1969 after losing a [referendum](#) in which he proposed more decentralisation. He died a year later at the age of 79, leaving his presidential memoirs unfinished. Many French political parties and leaders claim a [Gaullist](#) legacy; many streets and monuments in France and other parts of the world were [dedicated to his memory](#) after his death.

(😊)🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷(😊)

# Charles de Gaulle during World War II

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_de\\_Gaulle\\_during\\_World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_de_Gaulle_during_World_War_II)



Charles de Gaulle and Charles Mast saluting to the French national anthem in Tunis, Tunisia (1943)

At the outbreak of World War II, Charles de Gaulle was put in charge of the French Fifth Army's tanks (five scattered battalions, largely equipped with R35 light tanks) in Alsace, and on 12 September 1939, he attacked at Bitche, simultaneously with the Saar Offensive.



**De Gaulle as commander, next to President Albert Lebrun in 1939**

In late February 1940, Paul Reynaud told de Gaulle that he had been earmarked for command of an armoured division as soon as one became available. In late March, de Gaulle was told by Reynaud that he would be given command of the 4th Armoured Division by 15 May. The government appeared likely to be restructured, as Daladier and Maurice Gamelin (commander-in-chief) were under attack in the aftermath of the Allied defeat in Norway, and had this happened de Gaulle, who on 3 May, was still lobbying Reynaud for a restructuring of the control of the war, might well have joined the government. By 7 May, he was assembling the staff of his new division.



**General De Gaulle inspecting sailors on Léopard in June 1942**

De Gaulle founded and headed several organization during the course of the war to administer the operation of Free France, starting with the Empire Defense Council days after Vichy capitulated in June 1940, and ending with the Provisional Government, which provided the transition from the liberation of France through the first elections in 1945, to the establishment of the Fourth Republic in 1947.





At the Casablanca Conference (14 January 1943), rival French leaders Henri Giraud (*leftmost*) and Charles de Gaulle (*middle right*) sit down after shaking hands in the presence of Franklin D. Roosevelt (*middle left*) and Winston Churchill (*rightmost*) — a public display of unity, but the handshake was only for show.



The 2nd Armored Division passes through the Arc de Triomphe. Signs read "Long live de Gaulle" and "De Gaulle to power".



At a committee meeting in London:  
left to right Diethelm, Muselier, de Gaulle, Cassin, Pleven and Auboyneau (1942)



Inaugural session of the Provisional Consultative Assembly in the presence of General de Gaulle. Palais Carnot, Algiers, November 3, 1943

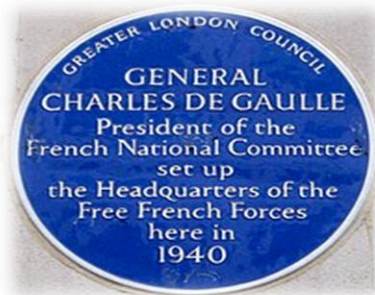




De Gaulle presenting the [Legion of Honour](#) to American Army and Navy officers [William D. Leahy](#), [George C. Marshall](#), [Ernest J. King](#), [Henry H. Arnold](#) and [Brehon B. Somervell](#)










(☺)(☺)@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@(☺)(☺)

## Awards & Honours





















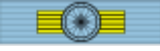

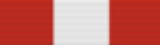




**Blue plaque commemorating the headquarters of General de Gaulle at 4 [Carlton Gardens](#) in London during World War II**

### French

-  Grand-Croix of the [Légion d'honneur](#) – 1945 (Officer – 1934; Knight – 1919)
-  Grand Master of the [Ordre de la Libération](#)
-  Grand-Croix of the [Ordre national du Mérite](#) – 1963
-  [Croix de guerre 1915](#)
-  [Combatant's Cross](#)
-  [Medal for the War Wounded](#)
-  [1914–1918 Inter-Allied Victory medal \(France\)](#)
-  [1914–1918 Commemorative war medal \(France\)](#)
-  [1939–1945 Commemorative war medal \(France\)](#)

### Foreign

-  Silver Cross of [Virtuti Militari](#) of Poland (1920)

-  Chief Commander of the US [Legion of Merit](#) (24 August 1945)
-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of the Dragon of Annam](#) (last awarded 1945)
-  Knight Grand Cross decorated with Grand Cordon of the [Order of Merit of the Italian Republic](#) (16 June 1959)
-  Knight of the [Order of the Royal House of Chakri](#) of Thailand (11 October 1960)
-  Knight of the [Royal Order of the Seraphim](#) (Sweden, 8 May 1963)<sup>[205]</sup>
-  Collar of the [Order of Merit of Chile](#) (October 1964)
-  Knight of the [Order of the Elephant](#) (Denmark, 5 April 1965)
-  Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the [Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav](#) (1962)
-  Knight Grand Cross of the [Order of the White Rose of Finland](#) with Collar (1962)
-  Knight Grand Cross of the [Royal Order of Cambodia](#)
-  Grand Cross of the [Order of the Million Elephants and the White Parasol](#) of Laos
-  Extraordinary Grand Cross of the [Order of Boyaca](#) of Colombia
-  Grand Cross of the [Sharifian Order of Military Merit of Morocco](#)
-  Grand Collar of the [Order of the Liberator General San Martín](#) of Argentina
-  [National Order of Merit of Ecuador](#)
-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of Military Merit of Brazil](#)
-  [National Order of Merit of Paraguay](#)
-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of the Sun of Peru](#)
-  Grand Collar and Medal of the [Order of the Southern Cross](#) of Brazil
-  Grand Collar of the [Order of Pahlavi](#) of Iran
-  Grand Cross of the Military Order of Ayacucho of Peru
-  Grand Collar of the [Order of the Aztec Eagle](#) of Mexico
-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of the Two Rivers](#) of Iraq
-  Collar of the [Order of the Liberator](#) of Venezuela
-  Collar of the National [Order of the Condor of the Andes](#) of Bolivia

-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of Umayyad](#) of Syria
-  Grand Cross of the [National Order of the Cedar](#) of Lebanon
-  Member of the [Order of the Benevolent Ruler](#) of Nepal
-  Grand Cordon of the [Order of Leopold](#) of Belgium
-  Grand Cross of the [Order of Saint-Charles](#) of Monaco (5 October 1944)
-  Grand Cross of the [Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany](#)
-  Collar of the [Order of Al-Hussein bin Ali](#) (Jordan)
-  Knight of the [Supreme Order of Christ](#) of the Vatican
-  Knight Grand Collar of the [Order of Pius IX](#) of the Vatican
-  Grand Commander of the [Order of the Redeemer](#) of Greece
-  [Papal Lateran Cross](#) of the Vatican
-  Grand Cross of the [Order of Polonia Restituta](#) of Poland
-  Commander of the [Bavarian Order of Merit](#)

## Medals

- Medal of the Mexican Academy of Military Studies
- Medal of Rancagua of Chile
- Medal of the Legionnaires of Quebec
- Medal of the City of Valparaíso
- Medal of Honour of the Congress of Peru
- Plaque and Medal of the City of Lima, Peru
- Medal of the City of New Orleans
- Order of the American Legion
- Medal of the College Joseph Celestine Mutis of Spain

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

2,402 Charles De Gaulle Memorial Stock Photos  
and High-res Pictures

Kindly the Web Link to see the Pictures/Photos

<https://www.gettyimages.in/search/2/image?phrase=charles+de+gaulle+memorial>

# Memorials

## [A] Mémorial Charles De Gaulle

[https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction\\_Review-g676144-d3428356-Reviews-Memorial Charles De Gaulle-Colombey les deux Eglises Haute Marne Grand Est.html](https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g676144-d3428356-Reviews-Memorial_Charles_De_Gaulle-Colombey_les_deux_Eglises_Haute_Marne_Grand_Est.html)



Inaugurated in 2008, the new Memorial has been installed at the foot of the Cross of Lorraine. More than just an account of the life of the great man, the Memorial is a journey through time, spread over 1600m<sup>2</sup> where each visitor can explore the history of the French people in his own way. The Call of 18 June, the Liberation, May 68, the Thirty Glorious Years, the end of empire... the spectacular living, interactive exhibition lets you rediscover the major events in the life of Charles de Gaulle. A life that left a profound impression on the history of France, a life that shaped your history, forever.

(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)



## [B] Charles de Gaulle Memorial: life-sized history

<https://visitworldheritage.com/en/eu/charles-de-gaulle-memorial-life-sized-history/384ef62b-680d-4113-aca4-4a457d732de6>



Visiting the Charles de Gaulle Memorial will be an opportunity to learn a little more about the history of this illustrious man and France.

In the commune of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, where General Charles de Gaulle settled with his family in 1934, a memorial was erected in 2008 to celebrate this major figure of French history.

In a modern building at the foot of the Cross of Lorraine, follow the life of Charles de Gaulle chronologically from his childhood to his first military experiences, from the Second World War to the creation of the Fifth French Republic, until his departure from power following the referendum of 1969.

This very dynamic exhibition, including 50 films, interactive multimedia terminals, 1,000 photographs, 40 maps and 240 graphic displays, provides you with a life-sized view of this history. Follow up the visit with a tour of the Côte des Bar, comprising the southern part of Champagne's vineyards.

(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)

## [C] Charles De Gaulle Memorial

<https://www.discoverireland.ie/kerry/charles-de-gaulle-memorial>

The colourful Wild Atlantic Way village of Sneem in County Kerry is home to the Charles De Gaulle Memorial. In the North Square of the village sits a large memorial stone, dedicated to the memory of President Charles De Gaulle of France, who visited the area on holiday in 1969.



An inset plaque on a large limestone boulder marks the commemoration of Charles de Gaulle's 1969 visit to Sneem Village in County Kerry.

Shortly after resigning the presidency of France in 1969, Charles De Gaulle and his wife sought refuge from the political fallout and came to Ireland. It was in Sneem, a small village in a quiet corner of southwest Ireland, that the De Gaulles' found a warm welcome. Here, seeking a haven of peace and tranquillity for some quiet contemplation, they spent two weeks on vacation. Charles de Gaulle felt a great affinity with the Irish Liberator Daniel O'Connell, and knowing O'Connell was from the region, chose to spend time here to regain perspective on his political misadventures.





# De Gaulle, 79 Dies from Heart Attack

<https://www.nytimes.com/1970/11/10/archives/de-gaulle-79-dies-from-heart-attack.html>

By United Press International  
Nov. 10, 1970



## About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally appeared, The Times does not alter, edit or update them. Occasionally the digitization process introduces transcription errors or other problems; we are continuing to work to improve these archived versions.

PARIS, Tuesday, Nov. 10. — Gen. Charles de Gaulle died last night of a heart attack, the French Government announced today. He would have been 80 years old on Nov. 22.

The announcement said General de Gaulle succumbed at his country home in the Village of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises.

The General, the French hero of World War II, took over the government in 1958 when France was near civil war and the army was in revolt in Algeria. He served for 11 years, before stepping down to retire to his home at Colombey.

There had been no indication that he suffered any illness before his death. Only last month, he published the fourth in a planned six-volume set of memoirs and the few persons who had seen him since his forced retirement in April, 1969, said he appeared well and was industriously working on the remaining manuscripts.

General de Gaulle took power in 1958 when the Army was in revolt in Algeria and the country was near civil war. For 11 years he ruled as a strongman, a number of times going to the people in referenda to make certain he had their backing. Each time he won until the spring of 1969, when he lost what he considered a crucial referendum on administrative reform.

He also withdrew entirely from French political life and refused to comment or make his thoughts known on current political affairs.

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

## **RICHARD NIXON**

*37th President of the United States: 1969 - 1974*



### **Statement About the Death of General Charles de Gaulle of France**

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/statement-about-the-death-general-charles-de-gaulle-france>

November 10, 1970

THE PASSING of General Charles de Gaulle reminds us of the qualities that make men and nations great. His was the quality of character that enables men to surmount all obstacles, to call up reserves of courage, to turn adversity into triumph. His was the quality of vision that could see the grand sweep of history at a time when others focused on the events of the moment. He provided inspiration to an age in danger of being overwhelmed by the commonplace and, therefore, his passing is a loss not only for the French Nation but for all mankind.

***Note:*** The statement was released at Key Biscayne, Fla.

*General de Gaulle, President of France from 1959 to 1969, died on November 9, 1970, of a heart attack in his home in Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, France, at the age of 79.*

Richard Nixon, Statement About the Death of General Charles de Gaulle of France Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project  
<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/240540>

(😊)(😊)aaaaaaaaaaaaa(😊)(😊)

List of Things named after

**Charles de Gaulle**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_things\\_named\\_after\\_Charles\\_de\\_Gaulle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_things_named_after_Charles_de_Gaulle)



**Charles de Gaulle (R 91), France's only active aircraft carrier**



A [statue of de Gaulle](#) stands facing Rondo de Gaulle'a in [Warsaw, Poland](#). It is identical to the one near [Champs-Élysées – Clemenceau](#) and the [Élysée Palace](#), in Paris.

## France

Many streets and public buildings in [France](#) bear the name of [Charles de Gaulle](#). They include:

- [Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport](#)
- [Charles de Gaulle](#), an [aircraft carrier](#) in the [Marine Nationale](#)
- [Place Charles de Gaulle](#), historically known as the *Place de l'Étoile*, the name of the large plaza around the [Arc de Triomphe](#) in [Paris](#). It is frequently referred to as [Charles de Gaulle – Étoile](#), which is the name of the [Métro](#) and [RER](#) station under it.
- Avenue Charles de Gaulle, Neuilly, the extension of one of the many avenues in Paris that radiate from the Charles de Gaulle-Étoile
- In addition, a large number of cities and towns in France have a street and/or a square named after de Gaulle. Considering the number of towns where this is the case, it would be impractical to attempt to list them all here.

## Outside France

De Gaulle is also commemorated outside France, particularly in street names. These include:

- [Belgium](#)
  - Place Charles de Gaulle ([Antoing](#))
  - Avenue du Général de Gaulle ([Brussels](#))
  - Place Charles de Gaulle ([Mouscron](#))
  - Charles de Gaullestraat ([Ronse](#))
  - Place Charles de Gaulle ([Verviers](#))
  - Pont Charles de Gaulle (Dinant)
- [Brazil](#)
  - Rua Charles de Gaulle ([Joinville](#))
  - Rua General de Gaulle ([Osasco](#))
  - Rua Charles de Gaulle ([São Luís](#))
  - Avenida General Charles de Gaulle ([São Paulo](#))
  - Rua General Charles de Gaulle ([Boa Viagem, Recife](#))
- [Cambodia](#)
  - Charles de Gaulle Boulevard ([Phnom Penh](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Street ([Siem Reap](#))
- [Cameroon](#)
  - Avenue du Général de Gaulle ([Douala](#))
- [Chad](#)
  - [Avenue Charles de Gaulle](#) ([N'djamena](#))
- [Canada](#)

- Boulevard De Gaulle ([Lorraine](#))
  - Charles-De Gaulle bridge ([Montreal](#))
  - Place Charles-De Gaulle (Montréal)
  - Charles de Gaulle Obelisk (Montreal)
  - Avenue De Gaulle ([Québec](#))
  - Rue De Gaulle ([Longueuil](#))
- [Chile](#)
  - Avenida Charles de Gaulle ([Arica](#))
  - Calle Charles de Gaulle ([Valparaíso](#))
  - Calle General de Gaulle ([Santiago, Chile](#))
- [Côte d'Ivoire](#)
  - Avenue du Général de Gaulle ([Abidjan](#))
- [Czech Republic](#)
  - Charlese de Gaulla ([Prague](#))
- [Dominican Republic](#)
  - Avenida Charles de Gaulle ([Santo Domingo](#))
- [Egypt](#)
  - Charles de Gaulle Avenue, formerly known as Giza Street, in the [Giza](#) area of [Cairo](#)
- [Ethiopia](#)
  - General De Gaulle Square ([Addis Ababa](#))
- [Germany](#)
  - Charles de Gaulle Avenue ([Berlin](#))
  - [École de Gaulle-Adenauer \[1\]](#) ([Bonn](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Bonn](#))
  - Charles-de-Gaulle-Platz ([Cologne](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Erkelenz](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Landau in der Pfalz](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Munich](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Weißenburg](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Wertheim am Main](#))
  - Charles de Gaulle Straße ([Wiesbaden](#))
- [Italy](#)
  - Via Charles De Gaulle [Licata](#)
- [Lebanon](#)
  - [Avenue General de Gaulle](#) ([Beirut](#))
- [Paraguay](#)
  - Calle Charles de Gaulle ([Asunción](#))
- [Mauritius](#)
  - Charles De Gaulle Street ([Beau Bassin](#))
- [Mexico](#)
  - Parque Charles de Gaulle ([Guadalajara](#))
  - Calle Charles de Gaulle, ([Naucalpan](#))
- [Montenegro](#)

- Bulevar Šarla de Gola ([Podgorica](#))
- [Netherlands](#)
  - De Gaullelaan ([Delft](#))
  - De Gaullestraat ([Doetinchem](#))
  - De Gaullesingel ([Ede](#))
  - Generaal de Gaullelaan ([Eindhoven](#))
  - Charles de Gaullestraat ([Roermond](#))
  - Charles de Gaullestraat ([Rotterdam](#))
- [Poland](#)
  - Rondo gen. Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Warsaw](#))
  - Aleja Generała Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Wałbrzych](#))
  - Ulica Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Malbork](#))
  - Szkoła im. Charles' de Gaulle'a (Gimnazjum nr 122 w Warszawie) ([Warsaw](#))
  - Szkoła im. Charles' de Gaulle'a (Szkoła Podstawowa nr 56, Gimnazjum z Oddziałami Dwujęzycznymi numer 29 i XVI LO) ([Poznań](#))
  - Ulica Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Gdańsk](#))
  - Ulica Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Tychy](#))
  - [Pomnik Charles'a de Gaulle'a](#) ([Warsaw](#))
  - Pomnik Charles'a de Gaulle'a przy Domu Muzyki i Tańca, tablica pamiątkowa z wizyty ([Zabrze](#))
  - Ulica Charles'a de Gaulle'a ([Zabrze](#))
- [Romania](#)
  - [Piața Charles de Gaulle](#) ([Bucharest](#))
- [Russia](#)
  - Charles de Gaulle Square ([Moscow](#))
- [Senegal](#)
  - Boulevard du Général de Gaulle ([Dakar](#))
- [Spain](#)
  - Carrer de Gaulle (San Fulgencio)
- [South Africa](#)
  - Charles de Gaulle Crescent ([Centurion, Gauteng](#))
- [Turkey](#)
  - Döğol Caddesi ([Ankara](#))
  - [Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle, Ankara](#)
- [United Kingdom](#)
  - [Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle](#) ([London](#))
- [United States](#)
  - De Gaulle Street (North and South) ([Aurora, Colorado](#), [Fort Worth, Texas](#))
  - De Gaulle Place ([El Paso](#), TX)
  - De Gaulle Street ([Iowa City](#), IA)
  - General De Gaulle Drive ([Algiers, New Orleans](#), Louisiana)



- De Gaulle Court ([Youngstown](#), OH)
- [Uruguay](#)
  - Rbla. Pte. Charles De Gaulle ([Montevideo](#))

{{😄}}X{{😄}}@@@@@@@@@@{{😄}}X{{😄}}

## Videos

Kindly visit these Web Links to see the Videos

[01] Final Days of an Icon: Charles de Gaulle [51:50]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4siRFCfKHhE>

[02] Charles de Gaulle Memorial Lecture | Day 2 (20 Oct.) [59:51]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO4mlhvJWQI>

[03] De Gaulle's car, the Citroen DS | SLICE EXPERTS [15:12]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sBsNgClRvM>

[04] De Gaulle Commemorates 18th June. 1940 (1958) [10:13]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZqrfaRIIDk>

[05] I Am France: The Myth of Charles de Gaulle [30:09]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETxF-JNlSq4>

[06] De Gaulle and the US: Secrets of a Decade-Long Rivalry

[53:04]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0d8xIKvBf0>

[07] DS 19: The French Car that Saved Charles de Gaulle's Life

[14:55]

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHepg\\_gz2s8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHepg_gz2s8)

[08] Full airport (T2) tour of Charles de Gaulle - Paris [17:32]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDc.jndxGOFE>

[09] Charles de Gaulle - Frenchman with an atomic heart [13:39]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGt2o3LoEAW>

[10] LIVE | SUNNY Friday Planespottting at Paris Charles de Gaulle

[1:17:00]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbZbXGcvHMw>

[11] 1967 : Conférence de presse de Charles de Gaulle "L'Etat d'Israël" | Archive INA (PRESS CONFERENCE) [1:31:52]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25hAYHwboFk>

[12] Explore Lille: Charles de Gaulle's Residence Revealed [24:09]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08uxoSCSoIO>

[13] De Gaulle: The Pursuit of Grandeur [3:51:25]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ix76fg1ql7s>

## Presidency of Charles de Gaulle

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency\\_of\\_Charles\\_de\\_Gaulle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency_of_Charles_de_Gaulle)



Charles de Gaulle in 1961

### Presidency of Charles de Gaulle


8 January 1959 – 28 April 1969

**President**

[Charles de Gaulle](#)

**Party**

- [UNR](#) (1959–1967)
- [UDR](#) (1967–1969)

<b>Election</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">1958</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">1965</a></li> </ul>
<b>Seat</b>	<a href="#">Élysée Palace</a>
← <a href="#">René Coty</a> <sup>[fr]</sup>	<a href="#">Georges Pompidou</a> <sup>[fr]</sup> →
	
<a href="#">Presidential standard</a>	

[Charles de Gaulle](#)'s tenure as the [18th president of France](#) officially began on 8 January 1959. In 1958, during the [Algerian War](#), he came out of retirement and was appointed [President of the Council of Ministers](#) (Prime Minister) by President [René Coty](#). He rewrote the [Constitution of France](#) and founded the [Fifth Republic](#) after approval by [referendum](#). He was [elected](#) president later that year, a position to which he was [re-elected](#) in 1965 and held until his resignation on 28 April 1969.

When the war in [Algeria](#) threatened to bring the unstable [Fourth Republic](#) to collapse, the [National Assembly](#) brought him back to power during the [May 1958 crisis](#). He founded the Fifth Republic with a strong presidency, and he was elected to continue in that role. He managed to keep [France](#) together while taking steps to end the war, much to the anger of the [Pieds-Noirs](#) (ethnic Europeans born in Algeria) and the [armed forces](#). He granted [independence](#) to [Algeria](#) and acted progressively towards other French colonies. In the context of the [Cold War](#), de Gaulle initiated his "politics of grandeur", asserting that France as a major power should not rely on other countries, such as the United States, for its national security and prosperity. To this end, he pursued a policy of "national independence" which led him to withdraw from [NATO](#)'s integrated military command and to launch an independent [nuclear strike force](#) that made France the world's [fourth nuclear power](#). He restored cordial [Franco-German relations](#) to create a European counterweight between the Anglo-American and Soviet spheres of influence through the signing of the [Élysée Treaty](#) on 22 January 1963.

De Gaulle opposed any development of a [supranational Europe](#), favouring Europe as a continent of [sovereign nations](#). De Gaulle openly criticised the [United States intervention in Vietnam](#). In his later years, his support for the slogan "[Vive le Québec libre](#)" and his two vetoes of Britain's entry into the [European Economic Community](#) generated considerable controversy in both North America and Europe. Although reelected to the presidency in [1965](#), he faced widespread protests by students and workers in [May 1968](#), but had the Army's support and won an [election](#) with an increased majority in the National Assembly. De Gaulle resigned in 1969 after losing a [referendum](#) in which he proposed more decentralisation.

## **Founding of the Fifth Republic**

The [French Fourth Republic](#) had suffered from a lack of political consensus, a weak executive, and governments forming and falling in quick succession since 1946. With no party or coalition able to sustain a parliamentary majority, [prime ministers](#) found themselves unable to risk their political position with unpopular reforms. The republic began to collapse during the [Algerian War](#), and especially after the [May 1958 crisis](#), wherein elements of the [French Armed Forces](#) staged a [coup d'état](#) in [French Algeria](#) and demanded that Charles de Gaulle return to power, leading to fears that France as a whole would descend into [civil war](#).<sup>[2][3]:383–389</sup> President [René Coty](#) publicly asked de Gaulle to help reform France's institutions.<sup>[3]:396</sup> De Gaulle accepted, under the precondition that a new constitution would be introduced to create a powerful presidency in which a sole executive, the first of which was to be himself, ruled for seven-year periods. Another condition was that he be granted [extraordinary powers](#) for a period of six months. De Gaulle's newly formed cabinet was approved by the National Assembly on 1 June 1958, by 329 votes against 224, while he was granted the power to govern by [ordinances](#) for a six-month period, as well as the task to draft a new Constitution.

## **1958 indirect French presidential election**

In the [November 1958 legislative election](#), Charles de Gaulle and his supporters won a comfortable majority. On 21 December, he was [elected](#) President of France by the electoral college with 78% of the vote; he was inaugurated in January 1959. As head of state, he also became, *ex officio*, the [Co-Prince of Andorra](#).

## **Algerian War**



**The French Community in 1959**

Upon becoming president, de Gaulle was faced with the urgent task of finding a way to bring to an end the bloody and divisive war in Algeria. His intentions were obscure. He had immediately visited Algeria and declared, [Je vous ai compris](#) <sup>[fr]</sup>—'I have understood you', and each competing interest had wished to believe it was them that he had understood. The settlers assumed he supported them and would be stunned when he did not. In Paris, the left wanted independence for Algeria. Although the military's near coup had contributed to his return to power, de Gaulle soon ordered all officers to quit the rebellious Committees of Public Safety. Such actions greatly angered the *pieds-noirs* and their military supporters.

He faced uprisings in Algeria by the *pied-noirs* and the French armed forces. On assuming the prime minister role in June 1958, he immediately went to Algeria, and neutralised the army there, with its 600,000 soldiers. The Algiers Committee of Public Safety was loud in its demands on behalf of the settlers, but de Gaulle made more

visits and sidestepped them. For the long term he devised a plan to modernize Algeria's traditional economy, deescalated the war, and offered Algeria self-determination in 1959. A [pied-noir revolt in 1960](#) failed, and another [attempted coup](#) failed in April 1961. French voters approved his course in [a 1961 referendum on Algerian self-determination](#). De Gaulle arranged a cease-fire in Algeria with the March 1962 [Evian Accords](#), legitimated by another [referendum](#) a month later. It gave victory to the FLN, which came to power and declared independence. The long crisis was over.

Although the Algerian issue was settled, Prime Minister [Michel Debré](#) resigned over the final settlement and was replaced with [Georges Pompidou](#) on 14 April 1962. France recognised Algerian independence on 3 July 1962, and a blanket amnesty law was belatedly voted in 1968, covering all crimes committed by the French army during the war. In just a few months in 1962, 900,000 [Pied-Noirs](#) left the country. After 5 July, the exodus accelerated in the wake of the French deaths during the [Oran massacre of 1962](#).

With the conclusion of the Algerian War, de Gaulle was now able to seek his two main objectives: the reform and development of the French economy, and the promotion of an independent foreign policy and a strong presence on the international stage. This was named by foreign observers the "politics of grandeur" (*politique de grandeur*).

### **Assassination attempts**



**Charles de Gaulle's motorcade passes through Isles-sur-Suippe (Marne).  
The president salutes the crowd from his famous Citroën DS.**

De Gaulle was targeted for death by the [Organisation armée secrète](#) (OAS), in retaliation for his Algerian initiatives. Several assassination attempts were made on him; the most famous occurred on 22 August 1962, when he and his wife narrowly escaped from an organized machine gun [ambush](#) on their [Citroën DS limousine](#). De Gaulle commented "Ils tirent comme des cochons" ("They shoot like pigs"). The attack was arranged by Colonel [Jean-Marie Bastien-Thiry](#) at [Petit-Clamart](#). Bastien-Thiry was later executed by [firing squad](#) on 11 March 1963, the last execution done by this method in France.

It is claimed that there were at least 30 assassination attempts against de Gaulle throughout his lifetime.

## **Economic policy**

In the immediate post-war years France was in poor shape; wages remained at around half prewar levels, the winter of 1946–1947 did extensive damage to crops, leading to a reduction in the bread ration, hunger and disease remained rife and the black market continued to flourish. After 1948, things began to improve dramatically with the introduction of [Marshall Aid](#)—large scale American financial assistance given to help rebuild European economies and infrastructure. This laid the foundations of a meticulously planned program of investments in energy, transport and heavy industry, overseen by the government of Prime Minister [Georges Pompidou](#).

De Gaulle oversaw tough economic measures to revitalise the country, including the issuing of a new [franc](#) (worth 100 old francs). Less than a year after taking office, he was confronted with national tragedy, after the [Malpasset Dam](#) in Var collapsed in early December, killing over 400 in floods. Internationally, he rebuffed both the United States and the [Soviet Union](#), pushing for an independent France with its own [nuclear weapons](#) and strongly encouraged a "Free Europe", believing that a confederation of all European nations would restore the past glories of the great European empires.

Aided by these projects, the French economy recorded growth rates unrivalled since the 19th century. In 1964, for the first time in nearly 100 years France's GDP overtook that of the United Kingdom for a time. This period is still remembered in France with some nostalgia as the peak of the [Trente Glorieuses](#) ("Thirty Glorious Years" of economic growth between 1945 and 1974).

In 1967, de Gaulle decreed a law that obliged all firms over certain sizes to distribute a small portion of their profits to their employees. By 1974, as a result of this measure, French employees received an average of 700 francs per head, equivalent to 3.2% of their salary.

## **Nuclear weapons programme**



**President [John F. Kennedy](#) and de Gaulle at the conclusion of their talks at Elysee Palace, 1961**

As early as April 1954 while out of power, de Gaulle argued that France must have its own nuclear arsenal as nuclear weapons were seen as a national status symbol and a way of maintaining international prestige with a place at the 'top table' of the United Nations. Full-scale research began again in late 1954 when Prime Minister [Pierre Mendès France](#) authorized a plan to develop the atomic bomb; large deposits of [uranium](#) had been discovered near [Limoges](#) in central France, providing the researchers with an unrestricted supply of nuclear fuel. France's independent [Force](#)



[de Frappe](#) (strike force) came into being soon after de Gaulle's election with his authorization for the first nuclear test.

With the cancellation of [Blue Streak](#), the US agreed to supply Britain with its [Skybolt](#) and later [Polaris](#) weapons systems, and in 1958, the two nations signed the [Mutual Defence Agreement](#) forging close links which have seen the US and UK cooperate on nuclear security matters ever since. Although at the time it was still a full member of NATO, France proceeded to develop its own independent nuclear technologies—this would enable it to become a partner in any reprisals and would give it a voice in matters of atomic control.



### **The [Redoutable](#), the first French nuclear missile submarine**

After six years of effort, on 13 February 1960, France became the [world's fourth nuclear power](#) when a high-powered [nuclear device](#) was exploded in the [Sahara](#) some 700 miles south-south-west of Algiers. In August 1963, France decided against signing the [Partial Test Ban Treaty](#) designed to slow the arms race because it would have prohibited it from testing nuclear weapons above ground. France continued to carry out tests at the Algerian site until 1966, under an agreement with the newly independent Algeria. France's testing program then moved to the [Mururoa](#) and [Fangataufa](#) Atolls in the South Pacific.

In November 1967, an article by the French Chief of the General Staff (but inspired by de Gaulle) in the *Revue de la Défense Nationale* caused international consternation. It was stated that the French nuclear force should be capable of firing "in all directions"—thus including even America as a potential target. This surprising statement was intended as a declaration of French national independence and was in retaliation to a warning issued long ago by [Dean Rusk](#) that US missiles would be aimed at France if it attempted to employ atomic weapons outside an agreed plan. However, criticism of de Gaulle was growing over his tendency to act alone with little regard for the views of others. In August, concern over de Gaulle's policies had been voiced by [Valéry Giscard d'Estaing](#) when he queried 'the solitary exercise of power'.

### **[Direct elections](#)**

In September 1962, de Gaulle sought a constitutional amendment to allow the president to be directly elected by the people and issued another [referendum to this end](#). After a [motion of censure](#) voted by the parliament on 4 October 1962, de Gaulle dissolved the National Assembly and held [new elections](#). Although the left progressed, the Gaullists won an increased majority—this despite opposition from the Christian democratic [Popular Republican Movement](#) (MRP) and the [National Centre of Independents and Peasants](#) (CNIP) who criticised de Gaulle's [euroscepticism](#) and [presidentialism](#).<sup>[25][26]</sup>

De Gaulle's proposal to change the election procedure for the French presidency was approved at the referendum on 28 October 1962 by more than three-fifths of voters despite a broad "coalition of no" formed by most of the parties, opposed to a presidential regime. Thereafter, the president was to be elected by direct universal suffrage for the first time since Louis Napoleon in 1848.

### **1965 re-election**

In December 1965, de Gaulle [returned as president for a second seven-year term](#). In the first round he did not win the expected majority, receiving 45% of the vote. Both of his main rivals did better than expected; the leftist [François Mitterrand](#) received 32% and [Jean Lecanuet](#), who advocated for what *Life* described as "Gaullism without de Gaulle", received 16%. De Gaulle won a majority in the second round, with Mitterrand receiving 44.8%.

### **Foreign policy**

His expression, "Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals", has often been cited throughout the history of [European integration](#). It became, for the next ten years, a favourite political rallying cry of de Gaulle's. His vision stood in contrast to the [Atlanticism](#) of the United States and Britain, preferring instead a Europe that would act as a third [pole](#) between the United States and the Soviet Union. By including in his ideal of Europe all the territory up to the Urals, de Gaulle was implicitly offering [détente](#) to the Soviets. As the last chief of government of the Fourth Republic, de Gaulle made sure that the [Treaty of Rome](#) creating the [European Economic Community](#) was fully implemented, and that the British project of Free Trade Area was rejected, to the extent that he was sometimes considered as a "Father of Europe".

### **NATO**



**De Gaulle with President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) in Washington, D.C., 1963**

De Gaulle hosted a superpower summit on 17 May 1960 for arms limitation talks and détente efforts in the wake of the [1960 U-2 incident](#) between United States President [Dwight Eisenhower](#), Soviet Premier [Nikita Khrushchev](#), and United Kingdom Prime Minister [Harold Macmillan](#). De Gaulle's warm relations with Eisenhower were noticed by United States military observers at that time. De Gaulle told Eisenhower: "Obviously you cannot apologize but you must decide how you wish to handle this. I will do everything I can to be helpful without being openly partisan." When Khrushchev condemned the United States U-2 flights, de Gaulle expressed to Khrushchev his

disapproval of 18 near-simultaneous secret Soviet satellite overflights of French territory; Khrushchev denied knowledge of the satellite overflights. Lieutenant General [Vernon A. Walters](#) wrote that after Khrushchev left, "De Gaulle came over to Eisenhower and took him by the arm. He took me also by the elbow and, taking us a little apart, he said to Eisenhower, 'I do not know what Khrushchev is going to do, nor what is going to happen, but whatever he does, I want you to know that I am with you to the end.' I was astounded at this statement, and Eisenhower was clearly moved by his unexpected expression of unconditional support". General Walters was struck by de Gaulle's "unconditional support" of the United States during that "crucial time". De Gaulle then tried to revive the talks by inviting all the delegates to another conference at the [Élysée Palace](#) to discuss the situation, but the summit ultimately dissolved in the wake of the U-2 incident.

In February 1966, France withdrew from the [NATO Military Command Structure](#) but remained within the organisation. De Gaulle, haunted by the memories of 1940, wanted France to remain the master of the decisions affecting it, unlike in the 1930s when it had to follow in step with its British ally. He also ordered all foreign military personnel to leave France within a year. This latter action was particularly badly received in the US, prompting [Dean Rusk](#), the US Secretary of State, to ask de Gaulle whether the removal of American military personnel was to include exhumation of the 50,000 American war dead buried in French cemeteries.

### **European Economic Community (EEC)**



**De Gaulle and [Konrad Adenauer](#) in 1961**

De Gaulle, who in spite of recent history admired Germany and spoke excellent German, as well as English, established a good relationship with the aging West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer—culminating in the [Elysee Treaty](#) in 1963—and in the first few years of the Common Market, France's industrial exports to the other five members tripled and its farm export almost quadrupled. The franc became a solid, stable currency for the first time in half a century, and the economy mostly boomed. Adenauer however, all too aware of the importance of American support in Europe, gently distanced himself from the general's more extreme ideas, wanting no suggestion that any new European community would in any sense challenge or set

itself at odds with the US. In Adenauer's eyes, the support of the US was more important than any question of European prestige.

De Gaulle vetoed the British application to join the [European Economic Community](#) (EEC) in 1963, famously uttering the single word 'non' into the television cameras at the critical moment, a statement used to sum up French opposition towards Britain for many years afterwards. Macmillan said afterwards that he always believed that de Gaulle would prevent Britain joining, but thought he would do it quietly, behind the scenes. He later complained privately that "all our plans are in tatters".

During the establishment of the [European Economic Community](#) (EEC), de Gaulle helped precipitate the [Empty Chair Crisis](#), one of the greatest crises in the history of the EEC. It involved the financing of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#), but almost more importantly the use of [qualified majority voting](#) in the EC (as opposed to unanimity). In June 1965, after France and the other five members could not agree, de Gaulle withdrew France's representatives from the EC. Their absence left the organisation essentially unable to run its affairs until the [Luxembourg compromise](#) was reached in January 1966. De Gaulle succeeded in influencing the decision-making mechanism written into the Treaty of Rome by insisting on solidarity founded on mutual understanding. He vetoed Britain's entry into the EEC a second time, in June 1967.

### **Recognition of the People's Republic of China**

In January 1964, France was, after the UK, among the first of the major Western powers to open diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC), which was established in 1949 and which was isolated on the international scene. By recognizing [Mao Zedong](#)'s government, de Gaulle signaled to both Washington and Moscow that France intended to deploy an independent foreign policy. The move was criticized in the United States as it seemed to seriously damage US policy of [containment](#) in Asia. De Gaulle justified this action by "the weight of evidence and reason", considering that China's demographic weight and geographic extent put it in a position to have a global leading role. De Gaulle also used this opportunity to arouse rivalry between the USSR and China, a policy that was followed several years later by [Henry Kissinger](#)'s "triangular diplomacy" which also aimed to create a Sino-Soviet split.

### **Six-Day War**

With tension rising in the Middle East in 1967, de Gaulle on 2 June declared an [arms embargo](#) against Israel, just three days before the outbreak of the [Six-Day War](#). This, however, did not affect spare parts for the French military hardware with which the Israeli armed forces were equipped. This was an abrupt change in French policy. In 1956, France, Britain and Israel had cooperated in an elaborate effort to retake the [Suez Canal](#) from Egypt. Israel's air force operated French [Mirage](#) and [Mystère](#) jets in the Six-Day War, and its navy was building its new missile boats in [Cherbourg](#). Though paid for, their transfer to Israel was now blocked by de Gaulle's government. But they were smuggled out in an operation that drew further denunciations from the French government. The last boats took to the sea in December 1969, directly after a

major deal between France and now-independent Algeria exchanging French armaments for Algerian oil.

Under de Gaulle, following the independence of Algeria, France embarked on foreign policy more favorable to the [Arab](#) side. President de Gaulle's position in 1967 at the time of the Six-Day War played a part in France's new-found popularity in the Arab world. Israel turned towards the United States for arms, and toward its own industry. In a televised news conference on 27 November 1967, de Gaulle described the Jewish people as "this elite people, sure of themselves and domineering".

In his letter to [David Ben-Gurion](#) dated 9 January 1968, de Gaulle explained that he was convinced that Israel had ignored his warnings and overstepped the bounds of moderation by taking possession of Jerusalem, and Jordanian, Egyptian, and Syrian territory by force of arms. He felt Israel had exercised repression and expulsions during the occupation and that it amounted to annexation. He said that provided Israel withdrew its forces, it appeared that it might be possible to reach a solution through the UN framework which could include assurances of a dignified and fair future for refugees and minorities in the Middle East, recognition from Israel's neighbours, and freedom of navigation through the [Gulf of Aqaba](#) and the Suez Canal.

### **Nigerian Civil War**

The Eastern Region of Nigeria declared itself independent under the name of the Independent [Republic of Biafra](#) on 30 May 1967. On 6 July, the first shots in the [Nigerian Civil War](#) were fired, marking the start of a conflict that lasted until January 1970. Under de Gaulle's leadership, France embarked on a period of interference outside the traditional French zone of influence. A policy geared toward the break-up of Nigeria put Britain and France into opposing camps. From August 1968, when its embargo was lifted, France provided limited and covert support to the Biafra rebels. Although French arms helped to keep Biafra in action for the final 15 months of the civil war, its involvement was seen as insufficient and counterproductive. The Biafran chief of staff stated that the French "did more harm than good by raising false hopes and by providing the British with an excuse to reinforce Nigeria."

### **Vietnam War**

In September 1966, in a famous [speech](#) in [Phnom Penh](#) in Cambodia, he expressed France's disapproval of the US involvement in the [Vietnam War](#), calling for a US withdrawal from Vietnam as the only way to ensure peace. De Gaulle considered the war to be the "greatest absurdity of the twentieth century". De Gaulle conversed frequently with [George Ball](#), United States President [Lyndon Johnson's](#) [Under Secretary of State](#), and told Ball that he feared that the United States risked repeating France's tragic experience in Vietnam, which de Gaulle called "ce pays pourri" ("the rotten country"). Ball later sent a 76-page memorandum to Johnson critiquing Johnson's current Vietnam policy in October 1964.



### **Vive le Québec libre!**



**General Charles de Gaulle on the Chemin du Roy,  
Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, 1967**

In July 1967, de Gaulle visited Canada, which was celebrating its centenary with a [world fair](#) in Montreal, [Expo 67](#). On 24 July, speaking to a large crowd from a balcony at [Montreal's](#) city hall, de Gaulle shouted "*Vive le Québec libre! Vive le Canada français! Et vive la France!*" (Long live free Quebec! Long live French Canada, and long live France!). The Canadian media harshly criticized the statement, and [Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson](#) stated that "Canadians do not need to be liberated". De Gaulle abruptly left Canada two days later, without proceeding to [Ottawa](#) as scheduled. The speech was heavily criticized in both Canada and France, but was seen as a watershed moment by the [Quebec sovereignty movement](#).

### **May 1968**

De Gaulle's government was criticized within France, particularly for its heavy-handed style. While the written press and elections were free, and private stations such as [Europe 1](#) were able to broadcast in French from abroad, the state's [ORTF](#) had a monopoly on television and radio. This monopoly meant that the government was in a position to directly influence broadcast news. In many respects, Gaullist France was conservative, Catholic, and there were few women in high-level political posts (in May 1968, the government's ministers were 100% male). Many factors contributed to a general weariness of sections of the public, particularly the student youth, which led to the events of May 1968.

The mass demonstrations and strikes in France in May 1968 severely challenged De Gaulle's legitimacy. He and other government leaders feared that the country was on the brink of revolution or civil war. On 29 May, De Gaulle disappeared without notifying Prime Minister Pompidou or anyone else in the government, stunning the country. He fled to [Baden-Baden](#) in Germany to meet with General Massu, head of the French military there, to discuss possible army intervention against the protesters. De Gaulle returned to France after being assured of the military's support, in return for which De Gaulle agreed to amnesty for the 1961 coup plotters and OAS members.

In a private meeting discussing the students' and workers' demands for direct participation in business and government he coined the phrase "La réforme oui, la [chienlit](#) non", which can be politely translated as 'reform yes, masquerade/chaos no.' It was a [vernacular scatological pun](#) meaning 'chie-en-lit, no' (shit-in-bed, no). The term is now common parlance in French political commentary, used both critically and ironically referring back to de Gaulle.



But de Gaulle offered to accept some of the reforms the demonstrators sought. He again considered a referendum to support his moves, but on 30 May, Pompidou persuaded him to dissolve parliament (in which the government had all but lost its majority in the March 1967 elections) and hold new elections instead. The June 1968 elections were a major success for the Gaullists and their allies; when shown the spectre of revolution or civil war, the majority of the country rallied to him. His party won 352 of 487 seats, but de Gaulle remained personally unpopular; a survey conducted immediately after the crisis showed that a majority of the country saw him as too old, too self-centered, too authoritarian, too conservative, and too [anti-American](#).

## **Retirement**



**Newly inaugurated U.S. president [Richard Nixon](#) visiting President De Gaulle one month before De Gaulle's retirement**

De Gaulle resigned the presidency at noon, 28 April 1969, following the rejection of his proposed reform of the Senate and local governments [in a nationwide referendum](#). In an eight-minute televised speech two days before the referendum, De Gaulle warned that if he was "disavowed" by a majority of the voters, he would resign his office immediately. This ultimatum, coupled with increased De Gaulle fatigue among the French, convinced many that this was an opportunity to be rid of the 78-year-old general and the reform package was rejected. Two months later [Georges Pompidou](#) was elected as his successor.

## **Legacy and evaluations**

Because he commissioned the [new constitution](#) and was responsible for its overall framework, de Gaulle is sometimes described as the author of the constitution, although it was effectively drafted during the summer of 1958 by the Gaullist [Michel Debré](#). The draft closely followed the propositions in [de Gaulle's speeches at Bayeux](#) in 1946, leading to a strong [executive](#) and to a rather [presidential](#) regime – the President being granted the responsibility of governing the Council of Ministers.





Grosser argued that the enormous French effort to become independent of Washington in nuclear policy by building its own "[force de frappe](#)" had been a failure. The high budget cost came at the expense of weakening France's conventional military capabilities. Neither Washington nor Moscow pays much attention to the French nuclear deterrent one way or another. As a neutral force in world affairs, France does have considerable influence over its former colonies, much more than any other ex-colonial power. But the countries involved are not powerhouses, and the major neutral nations at the time, such as India, Yugoslavia and Indonesia, paid little attention to Paris. He did not have a major influence at the United Nations. While the French

people supported and admired the foreign policy of Charles de Gaulle at the time and in retrospect, he made it all himself with scant regard to French public or elite opinion.

(☺)(☺)(☺)@#@#@#@#@#@(☺)(☺)(☺)

# 1958 French presidential election

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1958\\_French\\_presidential\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1958_French_presidential_election)

1958 French presidential election			
			
← <a href="#">1953</a>	21 December 1958		<a href="#">1965</a> →
<a href="#">Electoral college</a> of France			
Registered	81,764		
Turnout	99.42%		
			
Candidate	<a href="#">Charles de Gaulle</a>	<a href="#">Georges Marrane</a>	<a href="#">Albert Châtelet</a>
Party	<a href="#">UNR</a>	<a href="#">PCF</a>	<a href="#">UFD</a>
Electoral vote	62,394	10,355	6,721
Percentage	78.51%	13.03%	8.46%
President before election <a href="#">René Coty</a> <a href="#">CNIP</a>	Elected President <a href="#">Charles de Gaulle</a> <a href="#">UNR</a>		




The **1958 French presidential election** was the first held under the [French Fifth Republic](#), on 21 December. It was the sole [presidential election](#) by [electoral college](#) (gathering the members of the [French Parliament](#), the [general councils](#), the [overseas](#) assemblies, as well as tens of thousands of mayors, deputy mayors and municipal councillors) under the Fifth Republic. To win, a candidate was required to receive over 50% of the vote. This system was used solely for this election, as it was abolished following a [1962 referendum](#).

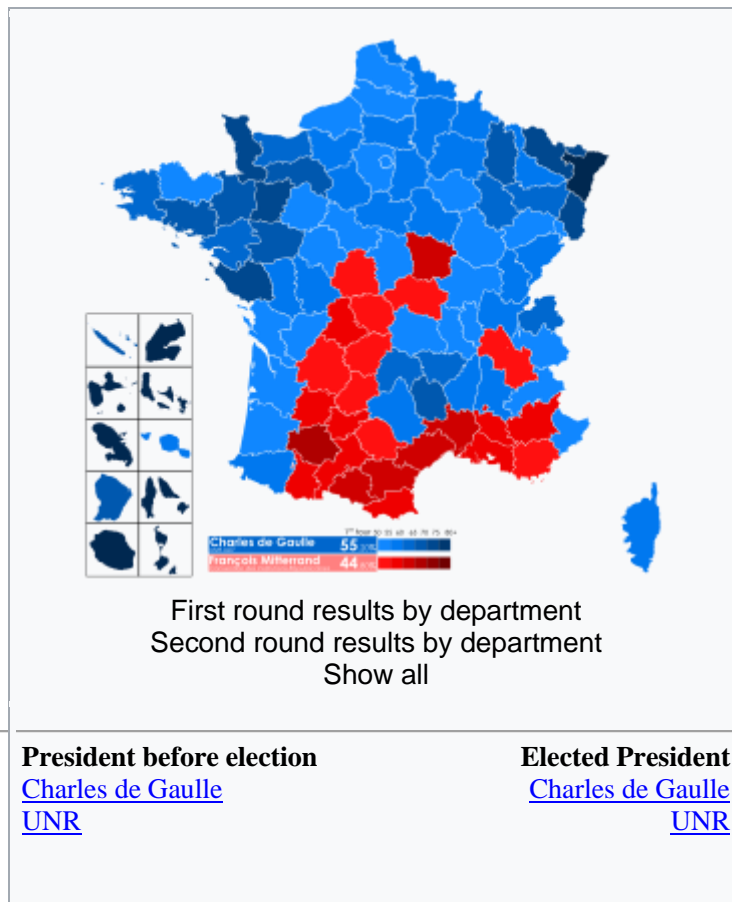
[Charles de Gaulle](#), who became [President of the Council of Ministers](#) (Prime Minister) after the [May 1958 crisis](#) amid the [Algerian War](#), won in a [landslide victory](#) in the first round of voting with 78.5% of the votes cast, against [Georges Marrane](#) of the [French Communist Party](#) and [Albert Châtelet](#) of the [Union of Democratic Forces](#). De Gaulle took office on 8 January 1959; following the 1962 referendum, he established direct [universal suffrage](#) for presidential elections, starting in [1965](#), which saw him win reelection to a second term.

(☺)(☺)(☺)@#@#@#@#@#@(☺)(☺)(☺)

# 1965 French Presidential Election

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965\\_French\\_presidential\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965_French_presidential_election)

1965 French presidential election		
		
← <a href="#">1958</a>	5 December 1965 (first round) 19 December 1965 (second round)	<a href="#">1969</a> →
Turnout	84.75% (first round) 84.32% (second round)	
		
Candidate	<a href="#">Charles de Gaulle</a>	<a href="#">François Mitterrand</a>
Party	<a href="#">UNR</a>	<a href="#">FGDS</a>
Popular vote	13,083,699	10,619,735
Percentage	55.20%	44.80%



**President before election**

[Charles de Gaulle](#)  
[UNR](#)

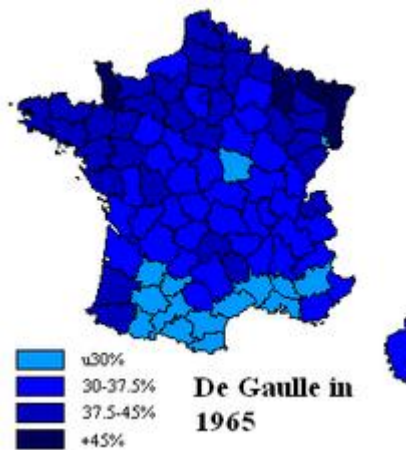
**Elected President**

[Charles de Gaulle](#)  
[UNR](#)

[Presidential elections](#) were held in [France](#) on 5 December 1965, with a second round on 19 December. They were the first direct presidential elections in the [Fifth Republic](#) and the first since the [Second Republic](#) in [1848](#). It had been widely expected that incumbent president [Charles de Gaulle](#) would be re-elected, but the election was notable for the unexpectedly strong performance of his left-wing challenger [François Mitterrand](#).

### **[Background](#)**

This was the second presidential election since the beginning of the Fifth Republic. Under the first draft of the 1958 constitution, the president was to be elected by an electoral college, in order to appease concerns about de Gaulle's allegedly authoritarian or [Bonapartist](#) tendencies. There had been a historical reluctance in France to have a directly elected president, because [Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte](#) (the winner of the [1848 presidential election](#)) had seized power in the [1851 coup d'état](#), before the end of his term. However, a direct presidential election had always been essential to de Gaulle's political vision, and he had it adopted by the [1962 referendum](#).



**% of vote for Charles de Gaulle, first round**

When the electoral campaign started, the majority of political commentators believed that de Gaulle would succeed in winning re-election in a single round. Many of the leaders of the opposition parties were therefore reluctant to challenge de Gaulle. Furthermore, some potential candidates such as former Prime Minister [Pierre Mendès-France](#) declined to run, due to their opposition to direct presidential elections. De Gaulle did not expect a significant challenger, announced his candidacy only one month before the first round of voting, and did not lead a very active campaign.

The centre-left paper [L'Express](#) campaigned for the nomination of a candidate of the non-Communist opposition. One potential challenger identified was [Gaston Defferre](#), Mayor of [Marseille](#) and an internal opponent of the then leader of the [French Section of the Workers' International](#) (SFIO, socialist party), [Guy Mollet](#). In his municipality, Defferre led a coalition composed of the SFIO, the [Radical Party](#), and the centre-right [Popular Republican Movement](#) (MRP). Nevertheless, the leaders of these parties refused to support his candidacy.

The failure of Defferre's candidacy led to other politicians entering the race. The MRP leader [Jean Lecanuet](#) was nominated by his party and the [National Centre of Independents and Peasants](#) (CNIP) to represent the centre. He ran a liberal and pro-European campaign, influenced by [John F. Kennedy](#), and criticizing the "archaism" and the "nationalism" of de Gaulle in a bid to rally younger and more moderate conservatives.

[François Mitterrand](#), a former [Fourth Republic](#) minister who did not belong to any party, offered to run as the sole candidate of the left. Mitterrand had been an opponent to de Gaulle since 1958 (like the Communists but contrary to the SFIO leadership) and had written the book *The Permanent Coup d'État*, strongly criticising de Gaulle's policies. He obtained the support from several left-wing parties, including the [French Communist Party](#) (PCF), which wished to get out of its isolation.

## **Results**

Despite running a somewhat lacklustre campaign, de Gaulle won the first round by over three million votes. However, he came up short of a majority, forcing a runoff being held two weeks later, pitting him against Mitterrand. Tixier-Vignancour supported Mitterrand in the second round, Lecanuet called on his voters not to vote



for de Gaulle. De Gaulle defeated Mitterrand by a decisive margin in the runoff. However, Mitterrand performed better than expected, one of the first warnings that de Gaulle's popularity was waning.

De Gaulle retained his Prime Minister [Georges Pompidou](#) but decided to carry out a cabinet reshuffle. He dismissed his Economy Minister [Valéry Giscard d'Estaing](#), thus damaging relations in the majority coalition with Giscard's party, the [Independent Republicans](#), the last allies of the Gaullists.

Candidate	Party	First round		Second round	
		Votes	%	Votes	%
<a href="#">Charles de Gaulle</a>	<a href="#">Union for the New Republic</a>	10,828,521	44.65	13,083,699	55.20
<a href="#">François Mitterrand</a>	<a href="#">Federation of the Democratic and Socialist Left</a>	7,694,005	31.72	10,619,735	44.80
<a href="#">Jean Lecanuet</a>	<a href="#">Popular Republican Movement</a>	3,777,120	15.57		
<a href="#">Jean-Louis Tixier-Vignancour</a>	<a href="#">Tixier-Vignancour Committees</a>	1,260,208	5.20		
<a href="#">Pierre Marcilhacy</a>	<a href="#">European Liberal Party</a>	415,017	1.71		
<a href="#">Marcel Barbu</a>	<a href="#">Miscellaneous left</a>	279,685	1.15		
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,254,556</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>23,703,434</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Valid votes		24,254,556	98.99	23,703,434	97.26
Invalid/blank votes		248,360	1.01	668,213	2.74
<b>Total votes</b>		<b>24,502,916</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24,371,647</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Registered voters/turnout		28,910,581	84.75	28,902,704	84.32
Source: <a href="#">Constitutional Court</a> , <a href="#">Constitutional Court</a>					

# QUOTES

Whatever happens, the flame of the French resistance must not and shall not die.

How can anyone govern a nation that has two hundred and forty-six different kinds of cheese?

Politics, when it is an art and a service, not an exploitation, is about acting for an ideal through realities.

Since they whose duty it was to wield the sword of France have let it fall shattered to the ground, I have taken up the broken blade.

At the root of our civilization, there is the freedom of each person of thought, of belief, of opinion, of work, of leisure.

Politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

Yes, it is Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, it is Europe, it is the whole of Europe, that will decide the fate of the world.

Nothing great is done without great men, and they are great because they wanted it.

The sword is the axis of the world and its power is absolute.

France has lost a battle, but France has not lost the war.

Let us be firm, pure and faithful; at the end of our sorrow, there is the greatest glory of the world, that of the men who did not give in.

Faced by the bewilderment of my countrymen, by the disintegration of a government in thrall to the enemy, by the fact that the institutions of my country are incapable, at the moment, of functioning, I General de Gaulle, a French soldier and military leader, realize that I now speak for France.

Old France, weighed down with history, prostrated by wars and revolutions, endlessly vacillating from greatness to decline, but revived, century after century, by the genius of renewal!

There can be no prestige without mystery, for familiarity breeds contempt.

If I live, I will fight, wherever I must, as long as I must, until the enemy is defeated and the national stain washed clean.

Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word.

Difficulty attracts a man of character, for it is by embracing it that he fulfils himself.

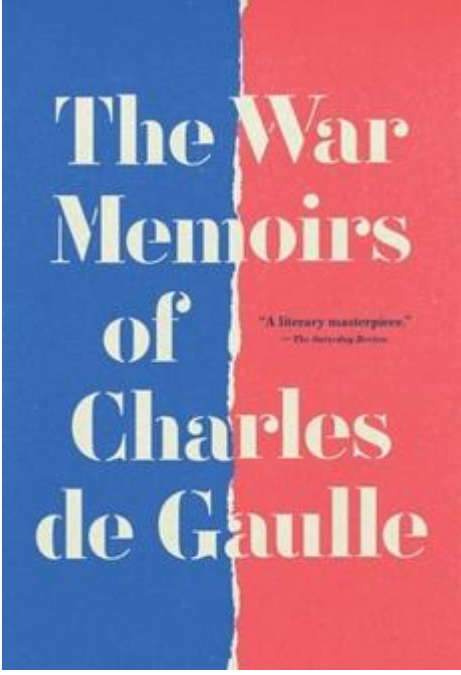
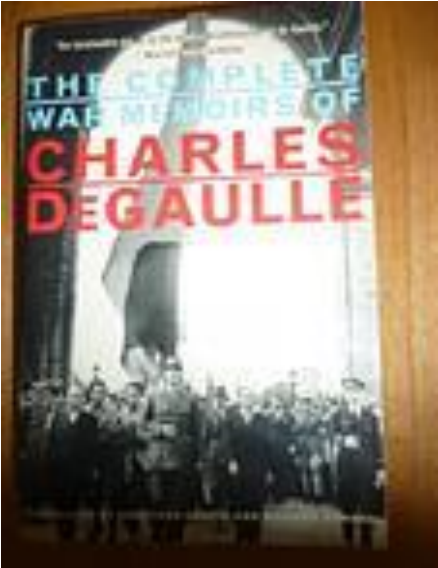
In war, the policy of least exertion always risks being paid for dearly.

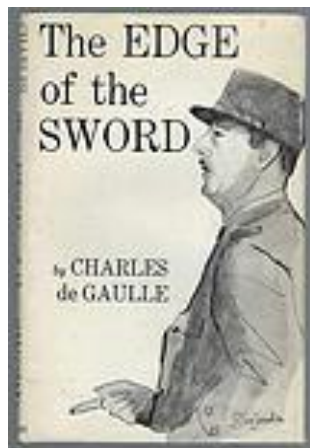
Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first.

Authority doesn't work without prestige, or prestige without distance.

I talk. It is necessary. Action puts the passions to work, but it is speech that arouses them.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

	<p>The complete war memoirs of the resistance leader Charles de Gaulle, who led France out of its darkest hour during the Nazi occupation during World War II. "Faced with the political disaster, I had to become France." This was how Charles de Gaulle answered the call of history. One of the few French battlefield leaders to have distinguished himself in May 1940, he had become the undersecretary of state for national defense. But when the government rejected his calls to fight on.....</p>
	<p>"The Complete War Memoirs of Charles de Gaulle" is a comprehensive autobiographical account by the French general and statesman who led the Free French Forces during World War II. The memoirs detail his experiences and reflections from the fall of France, his leadership in exile, through to the liberation of Paris. De Gaulle provides in-depth insights into the political and military strategies of the Allies, the internal dynamics of the French Resistance, and the broader implications of the war on France and Europe. His narrative combines a detailed historical record with personal observations, revealing his enduring commitment to French sovereignty and his vision for the nation's future.</p>



"The Edge of the Sword" is a compelling exploration of the art of leadership and the nature of power. The author, a prominent military and political figure, delves into the essence of politics and the requirements of leadership, emphasizing the need for strength, courage, and an unwavering commitment to one's principles. The book also provides a unique insight into the author's own leadership style and his views on France's role in the world.

[Kindly visit these Web Link for MORE](#)

[01] [https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/charles-de-gaulle/272984/?srsltid=AfmBOoq7yIaoGW-drCj6texwvMxSO05AHYtt69PFpNPJuZX2\\_rSz5qYD](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/charles-de-gaulle/272984/?srsltid=AfmBOoq7yIaoGW-drCj6texwvMxSO05AHYtt69PFpNPJuZX2_rSz5qYD)

The best books on Charles de Gaulle  
recommended by Julian Jackson

Charles de Gaulle had 'a certain idea of France' which even he didn't manage to articulate clearly. De Gaulle biographer and one of Britain's leading historians of modern France, Julian Jackson, talks us through some key books to get a sense of France's wartime leader and president, Charles de Gaulle.

[02] <https://fivebooks.com/best-books/charles-de-gaulle-julian-jackson/#book-3020>

@@@@@@@@@@@

ISBN 978-81-982668-5-9

